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INFO AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
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HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 000468

NOFORN

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TAGS: [NATO](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [BE](#)
SUBJECT: DEF MIN. CONFIRMS NEW BELGIAN MILITARY
CONTRIBUTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: A. (A) STATE 31102
[1](#)B. (B)BRUSSELS 412

Classified By: CDA WAYNE BUSH FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

[1](#)1. (C) Defense Minister Pieter De Crem telephoned charge April 1 to confirm that the Belgian cabinet has agreed to continue all current Belgian contributions in Afghanistan (see details ref (b)) through the end of 2010. In addition, in 2010 Belgium willl deploy two additional F-16s to Kandahar and provide a second Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team. De Crem said that the cabinet has also reached internal agreement on supporting a second Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), although this would not be immediately announced. De Crem said that he would continue to coordinate with Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht on whether Belgium would reinforce an existing PRT or send a separate team to Konduz. De Crem said that he had heard that a C-130 that Belgium had considered making available for election support was no longer needed, and so he did not push that further with the cabinet. De Crem did not mention whether or not Belgium would go ahead with its ideas of providing engineering and logistical training for the Afghan National Army. Asked specifically whether the cabinet had decided on additional civilian/development assistance, De Crem said FM De Gucht and Development Cooperation Minister Michel were "fighting" over what should be done. De Crem himself strongly advocated within the cabinet additional development efforts to balance the military contributions Belgium is making and will make. De Crem said that the new Belgian efforts would be made public in the course of parliamentary committee meetings on the afternoon of April 1, and at the NATO summit. Separately, Development Cooperation Minister Michel abruptly cancelled a meeting that had been scheduled for April 1 with the visiting USAID Acting Administrator to discuss development assistance efforts in Afghanistan.